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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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NSC BRIEFING

29 July 1954

INDOCHINA

I. With cease-fire, Viet Minh merely switches emphasis from military to political. We estimate military action will be short of overt aggression.

A. Ho announced 22 July south would be liberated; Giap echoed; French control in south only temporary.

B. No Viet Minh public announcement on Laos, Cambodia

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II. Outlook in south depends on French, Vietnamese efforts set up strong nationalist government. We estimate:

A. Little prospect prompt French action.

B. Unless French policy reversed, deterioration in south almost certain.

III. Cease-fire agreement omits mention Vietnamese government; thereby greatly weakens Diem regime.

A. Viet Minh could even argue French willingness withdraw troops "at government's request" means at Viet Minh request.

IV. Viet Minh military action between 21 July and cease-fire apparently to impress population, encourage Vietnamese desertions.

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A. Active near Nhatrang, deep in southern zone.

B. However, Trung Gia Commission agreement (pre-cease-fire) not violated.

C. Two violations THUS FAR after official 27 July cease-fire in north not significant.

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